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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to ascertain what speech communication convention outlets might be available to peace communication researchers. Seven issues of the Consortium for Peace Research Education and Development's (COPRED) "Peace Chronicle," a publication which offers one of the more comprehensive listings of conventions, events, and other peace resources available, were examined. Information was classified according to the following schema: communication related, educational training and peace studies, dispute resolution and mediation, personal and professional development, activism, talks and exhibits, science, international, and unrelated or unclear. The most frequently occurring conferences were those dealing with dispute resolution, peace studies, science, and international. Results indicated that very few outlets exist specifically for "peace communication" research. But the field is fertile for sharing research and expertise with professionals from other fields. The study did not consider the role of the regional speech communication conventions, yet the evidence shows that these conventions, too, offer peace communication conference opportunities. (Two tables of data are included.) (MG)

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Meetings of the (Peaceful) Minds:

A Survey of Convention Opportunities for Peace Communication Researchers

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A paper presented at the 75th Annual Meeting of
the Speech Communication Association
San Francisco, California
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As we find ourselves in one of the final programs of the final day of the 75th Annual Speech Communication Association Convention, we may be hard pressed to convince ourselves that going to another convention might be a worthwhile endeavor. But, given the passage of time, we may wish to find other convention outlets in exotic cities. The purpose of this paper is to examine some of the convention outlets which may be available for those interested in peace communication.

There are a variety of convention outlets available to peace communication researchers. Unfortunately, one must do a little digging, since those outlets are not immediately self-evident. To explore the availability of convention outlets to people from our field, a volume of the Consortium for Peace Research Education and Development's (COPRED) Peace Chronicle was examined. This paper will first examine the utility of convention outlets for peace communication scholars. Second, the method and results of the study will be examined. Finally, the prospects for meetings of the peaceful minds will be discussed.

There are many benefits one may accrue through both presenting research at conventions and attending conventions and other professional development meetings. As a presenter, one has the opportunity to share ideas and research interests with colleagues. In the sort of conventions this paper examines, it typically means sharing research with people outside the communication discipline. Not only does this permit the presenter to expose others to the unique perspective communication scholars may bring to bear on

peace and conflict management issues, but it is also good "public relations" for a discipline which some still consider primarily concerned with elocution.

Another benefit which accrues to those presenting research is that conventions serve as a means of developing works in progress. Many of the articles which appear in journals found their roots in a convention presentation. Through the process of critiquing and revision, the paper gains its publishable form. As noted above, many of the conventions cited in this paper involve people from outside the communication discipline, and their comments may be especially useful.

There are also benefits to accrue from simply participating in the conferences cited in this paper. Just as others may be exposed to your presented ideas, so also may you be exposed to the ideas of other disciplines. As we all know, communication owes a lot of its tradition to closely related fields such as psychology and sociology, and it is often the richness of those related fields which adds an extra dimension to communication scholarship.

A second benefit to participants in conferences is the opportunity to network with professionals from other fields. Not only will it allow people to further explore ideas offered in the presentations, but it should also open other avenues for further presentation of research. For example, a former colleague gained a reputation for his research into media and terrorism. After presenting his research at an international conference, he was able to make contacts for both a book chapter and a journal article.

While I do not guarantee that every conference will provide that opportunity, the possibility does exist.

Method

The purpose of this study was simply to ascertain what convention outlets might be available to peace communication researchers. Convention outlets were defined rather broadly in this study. Convention outlets were defined as encompassing 1) those opportunities for presenting original research, similar to SCA conventions; 2) those opportunities to develop one's own professional expertise, such as peace studies curriculum development or training development meetings; and 3) those opportunities for personal enrichment, such as speakers, art presentations, etc. After examining the data gathered, it also became evident that the opportunity to find subjects for communication research also exists. This finding will be examined in the discussion section.

Seven issues of the COPRED Peace Chronicle were examined.[1] It was felt that this publication offers one of the more comprehensive listings of conventions, events, and other peace resources available. COPRED is based at George Mason University, and is one of the oldest peace studies organizations in existence.[2] The organization is part of the Center for Conflict Resolution at George Mason, with faculty from a wide variety of disciplines, including communication.[3] It is thought that these faculty, and the organizations with which they are affiliated, are good sources of information for available conferences, which they publish

through the Peace Chronicle. Additionally, the Peace Chronicle acts as a clearinghouse for brochures, job advertisements, publications, and information about a wide variety of peace education and activist organizations. In short, the Peace Chronicle is the most comprehensive clearinghouse of information on peace conferences available.

The Calendar section of each Peace Chronicle was examined and classified. Additionally, some conferences had separate stories elsewhere in a particular issue (COPRED's own meeting, for example). These stories were gleaned for information. The information was classified according to the following schema:

Communication Related:	Those conferences which were most obviously related to communication-related research. These were identified either by name or by description.
Educational Training and Peace Studies:	These were conferences which dealt with educating educators, and included such topics as curriculum development, teaching techniques, etc. Other conferences categorized here included student-oriented conferences.
Dispute Resolution and Mediation:	These conferences dealt with techniques and approaches to dispute resolution. Sometimes these conferences were applied to particular contexts, such as educational mediation, labor relations, etc.
Personal and Professional Development:	Conferences which dealt with more personal issues, such as spiritual perspectives on peacemaking, ideas for research outlets, "inspirational" presentations, etc.

Activism:	These represented two broad categories of meetings. First, there were organizational meetings mass actions, such as walks, boycotts, protests, etc. Secondly, there were meetings which talked about longer term activist strategies, such as political involvement, peace movements, etc.
Talks and Exhibits:	These seemed to involve one-time only presentations. In some cases, these were by noted peace researchers or activists (Kenneth Boulding, Daniel Barrigan). Other times, they were displays of peace material, such as the Peace Quilt and exhibits of the Peace Museum.
Science:	These were conferences designed primarily for scholars in the hard sciences, such as chemistry, biology, etc.
International:	Again, these conferences fell into two broader categories. First were those conferences which were held overseas, such as England, Poland, and Yugoslavia. Second were those conferences dealing with International Relations.
Unrelated or Unclear:	These were conferences which did not clearly fall into any of the other, more traditional categories, or which did not seem to relate to peace research.

The findings are summarized in Table 1. The most frequently occurring conferences were those dealing with dispute resolution, peace studies, science, and international. Additionally, it can be seen that there is a fall and rise in the number of conferences displayed in issues studied. This can be attributed to two reasons: first, once a conference had been reported in one issue, it was not counted in subsequent issues. Secondly, the majority

of the conferences were offered either in the summer or the fall, and were often advertised in the February and April issues.

In order to provide examples of the different types of conferences presented, some sample listings are presented in Table 2.

Two shortcomings of this method should be noted. First, the listings were not always consistent in indicating whether or not it was an annual conference. Therefore, it is possible that these conferences may no longer exist. However, it is possible to use the addresses given to inquire about new conference opportunities which may occur. Secondly, a more discrete schema would probably have been more useful in helping people determine what the focus of certain conventions are. For example, the International item encompasses a wide variety of approaches to the study of international peace, many of which might not be of interest to peace communication researchers.

Discussion and Conclusion

The results indicate that very few outlets exist specifically for "peace communication" research. But the field is fertile for sharing our research and expertise with professionals from other fields. In fact, many peace studies organizations exist, and they are probably very interested in having more people from different disciplines participate in their programs.

Additionally, this study did not take into account the role of the regional speech communication conventions. Several peace-related communication programs were presented at last year's

regional conventions. Many were sponsored by the traditional divisions such as rhetoric or organizational communication. Some were co-sponsored by two divisions. And some were sponsored by other bodies in the organization, such as the President-elect. Therefore, it can be seen that peace communication conference opportunities do exist in our field.

One benefit of examining the Peace Chronicle was that some of the groups and events listed would make interesting objects of study. Many activist events, such as peace marches and rallies, might bear some interesting rhetorical fruit. Several programs at the SCA convention will (or have) examined some movement activities. The peace movement is alive and well, and living in the activities of its organizations.

Finally, a few words for the future. There are plans to hold a second Summer Conference in Peace Communication. This is tentatively scheduled for 1991. The papers delivered by participants in the first Summer Conference ("Peacemaking Through Communication") may have their papers published as a set of proceedings. Secondly, one would be advised to be aware of significant anniversaries and events, since they often prompt special observances. Examples of these would be the Military-Industrial Complex conference held at Oregon State, and several Pacem in Terris conference during the past year. Both commemorated the 25th anniversary of significant rhetorical events.

Finally, I would very definitely label this paper a work in progress. There are new conferences springing up all the time.

This paper has been an attempt to show some of the range of conferences available to peace communication researchers. The meetings of the "peaceful" minds will not only continue to produce significant scholarly contributions, but will also build a community of scholars addressing the building of a community of nations.

Table 1

Composite of Convention listings from Peace Chronicle

Issue	Communication	Training	DR/Mediate	Development	Activist	Talks	Science	Intl.	Other	Total
13-1	0	4	3	6	5	1	5	9	2	35
13-2	1	6	6	6	7	2	1	6	2	37
13-3	0	6	2	4	6	2	2	0	0	22
13-4	1	1	1	2	3	6	1	1	0	16
13-5/6	0	2	4	3	1	3	3	0	0	16
14-1	0	2	4	3	1	2	1	0	0	13
14-2	0	4	8	0	3	0	0	5	6	26
Total	2	25	28	24	26	16	13	21	10	165

Table 2

A sampling of entries of conferences from Peace Chronicle
Entries are arranged by issue number and date.

Date of Conference: April 4-June 27
Chronicle Issue: 13-1
Interest Area: Communication-related
Title: Psychology of Peace and War
Contact (1988-89) California Institute of Integral Studies
765 Ashbury
San Francisco, CA 94117

Date of Conference: April 9
Chronicle Issue: 13-1
Interest Area: Activism/object of study
Title: "From Enemy to Neighbor: The Church as agent in US-Soviet Relations" 18th annual conference of the New England Catholic Peace Fellowhsip.
Contact (1988-89) NECPF
Center for Reflective Action
Mont Marie
Holyoke, MA 01040

Date of Conference: April 15, 1989
Chronicle Issue: 13-1
Interest Area: Peace Studies
Title: Wisconsin Students look at World Issues. Annual Wisconsin Institute for the Study of War, Peace and Global Cooperation Student Conference.
Contact (1988-89) Wisconsin Institute for Study of War, Peace and Global Cooperation
USWP LCR
900 Reserve
Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481

Date of Conference: March 19, April 23
Chronicle Issue: 13-2
Interest Area: Communication-related
Title: Seminar on the Human and Social Dimensions of Peace
Contact (1988-89) International Institute for Peace Education
Peace Ed. Box 171
Teachers College
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

Date of Conference: May 25-28
Chronicle Issue: 13-2
Interest Area: Communication
Title: Global Communications: A Network of Cooperation.
Contact (1988-89) R.I. Joyce
Center for International Cooperation
#1 Tower Block
Shannon Airport
County Clare, Ireland

Date of Conference: June 1-3
Chronicle Issue: 13-2
Interest Area: Negotiation-Mediation
Title: Fourth Annual National Labor-Management Conference
Contact (1988-89) Patricia Presley
Conference Administrator
P.O. 1398
Cumberland, MD 21502

Date of Conference: October 13-15
Chronicle Issue: 13-2
Interest Area: Economics, Science, Communication, etc.
Title: Military-Industrial Complex: Eisenhower's Warning 3 Decades Later.
Contact (1988-89) Gregg Walker, Dir. of Peace Studies Program
Speech Communication
Oregon State U.
Corvallis, OR 97331

Date of Conference: October 16-19
Chronicle Issue: 13-2 (and others)
Interest Area: All-including communication
Title: COPRED Annual Conference
Contact (1988-89) Center for Conflict Resolution
George Mason University
4400 University Drive
Fairfax, VA

Date of Conference: July 4-9, 1989
Chronicle Issue: 13-3
Interest Area: Peace Studies
Title: Peace Education: Now and For the Next Generation.
Contact (1988-89) IIPE
Seann Quressette
Peace Education Project
Department of Secondary Education
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6G 2G5 Canada

Date of Conference: August 10-13
Chronicle Issue: 13-3
Interest Area: Mediation
Title: Annual Conference, National Association for Mediation in Education
Contact (1988-89) 425 Amity Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Date of Conference: October 20-23
Chronicle Issue: 13-4
Interest Area: Dispute Resolution
Title: Meeting the Challenges: Professional Dispute Resolution in Changing and Diverse Society.
Contact (1988-89) Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution
1730 Rhode Island Avenue NW
Suite 909
Washington, DC 20036

Date of Conference: March 13-17
Chronicle Issue: 14-1
Interest Area: Personal Development
Title: Leadership, Decision Making, and Conflict Management: A Strategic Approach to Organizational Problem Solving
Contact (1988-89) CDR Associates
100 Arapahoe
Suite 12
Boulder, CO 80302

Date of Conference: June 2-4
Chronicle Issue: 14-2
Interest Area: Peace Studies
Title: Third Annual Nuclear War and Peace Education Conference.
Contact (1988-89) Robert Ehrlich
Physics Department
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030

Date of Conference: July 19-22
Chronicle Issue: 14-2
Interest Area: Mediation
Title: Mediation: The Leading Edge 6th annual conference
Contact (1988-89) Academy of Family Mediators
(503) 345-1205

Date of Conference: April 14-16
Chronicle Issue: 14-2
Interest Area: Peace Studies
Title: First Annual Meeting of the Peace Studies Association
Contact (1988-89) Peace Studies Association
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155

Notes

1. These issues encompassed Volume 13, issues 1-6, plus Volume 14, Issue 1-2. The dates covered were February, 1988 to ~~February~~ April, 1989.

2. Consortium for Peace Research, Education and Development. Send inquiries c/o Center for Conflict Resolution, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030.

3. COPRED, as an organization itself, might be a worthwhile outlet for peace communication researchers to explore. It has several divisions which may be of interest to SCA members: the Arts and Media Network, the Peace Movements Network, the University Peace Studies interest group, and the Peace Research interest group, just to name a few.